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GENERAL NEWS.

On Monday all the prisoners brought up by the Freeborn on Sunday, including the fifteen colored men, were sent to the old Capitol.—Most of the colored men stated that they were free, and had been employed by the white men arrested at the time to work the boats, (in the smuggling operations across the lower Potomac,) but there is no doubt but the most of them are slaves. These, we believe, are the first black men who have been sent to the prison.

On Monday a party of twelve persons reached Baltimore under guard from Williamsport, Pa., where they were arrested on the charge of leaving their legal residences for the purpose of escaping the contemplated draft. They were all Baltimoreans, and Gen. Wool ordered them all to Fort McHenry.

Gen. Grant, U. S. A., has issued the following order to Gen. Quincy:—"Examine the baggage of all speculators coming South, and when they have specie turn them back. If medicine and other contraband articles, arrest them and confiscate the contraband articles.—Jews should receive especial attention."

The Wheeling Press says a great number of persons are leaving that city for the purpose of evading the operations of the draft.

Capt. Backus, brigade quartermaster, attached to the staff of General Whipple, died suddenly on Monday of congestion of the brain.

Z. C. Robbin, of Washington, has been appointed Register of Wills for the District of Columbia, by the President.

A dispatch from Nashville, dated the 7th says:—"There has been a great revolution in this city to-day in administering the provost guard duties. The new provost marshal, Col. Gillon, requires every one leaving for their residence in the country to take the oath of allegiance. Those who refuse are allowed to go home, but are not privileged to return. Gov. Johnson is acting with renewed and increased vigor in the punishment of traitors. Another excitement among the secessionists was the passing through the streets of gangs of negroes, impressed from disloyal owners to work on the fortifications, many of them carrying loads of bacon, ham, biscuit in barrels and other stores."

A disturbance occurred at Buffalo, N. Y., on Tuesday, on the occasion of a strike of the Irish and German laborers and their attempt to prevent others from working. The chief of police and others were overpowered and injured, but finally the affair was quelled by the police using their revolvers. Two rioters were wounded and the ringleader was arrested. The militia were ordered under arms, but their aid was not required.

The oath of allegiance to the U. S. government has been administered to the stone cutters at the Capitol.

The Albany Journal states that the War Department, in answer to an inquiry from the Governor, telegraphs that volunteers for the old regiments will be received until the draft is made, which cannot be before the 1st of September, as the preliminary work will occupy at least twenty days. The Journal states that if enough volunteers are obtained to fill up the old regiments to their full maximum, there will be no draft in the State, as there will be required 54,500 men therefor.

Robinson's cotton factory and the Morristown railroad bridge at Wissahickon, Pa., were destroyed by fire on Tuesday afternoon.

Restrictions have been once more laid on shipments to all points on the Mississippi south of Cairo. The instructions are that after Thursday evening, August 7, all parties making shipments will be required to procure recommendations from the Board of Trade or Union Committees of Memphis, Hickman, New Madrid, or Columbus, before applying for permits, and without such recommendation no permits will be issued. The Cumberland river is subject to the same rules that govern trade on the Lower Mississippi; while the Tennessee river is closed, except for the shipment of sutlers' stores and family supplies.

A dispatch from Gen. Pope's headquarters states that the battle of Saturday is considered there one of the most important of the war, not merely because of the desperate nature of the fighting, but also because it has defeated Jackson's plan to penetrate again into the valley of the Shenandoah and gather the luxuriant crop of that region. The movement was also designed to threaten Washington.

The correspondent of the New York Express, writing from Harrison's Landing on the 9th, says:—"A movement is now on foot, which the uninitiated cannot comprehend, but which, from particular circumstances, is deemed extremely important. There is much excitement in consequence. McClellan has strengthened his position on the south side of James River. There is a large fleet of transports at Harrison's Landing. Gen. Hooker has returned from Malvern Hills and occupies his old position."

Official dispatches received at the Navy Department in Washington yesterday, from Com. Dupont, do not mention the ram Fingal.

The New York World, in commenting on the order of the Confederate Government for retaliation on Gen. Pope and the officers of his army, says:—"We are confident that, under the command of Gen. Halleck, the war, while it is prosecuted with due energy, will also be conducted with a careful regard to the humane usages of civilized nations."

The following additional order, says the New York Tribune, has been issued in relation to those parties endeavoring to leave the country before drafting takes place:—"In default of giving bail, the parties arrested are to be taken to the nearest post or military depot and placed at once on military duty."

From New Orleans.

From passengers who came by the steamship Philadelphia, which arrived at New York yesterday from New Orleans, the Express obtained the following news:

The New Orleans Picayune having published on the 31st inst., an editorial which was considered seditious by General Butler, he at once suppressed the paper, but on the petitions of the editors, permitted its publication again, conditional upon an apology in print.—This was complied with, the editors disclaiming all knowledge as to how the article in question was put into the paper, and there the matter rests. The paper is now published as heretofore.

The editor of the "Commercial Bulletin," Capt. Seymour, being a paroled prisoner, he was arrested and at once sent to Fort Jackson to be kept in close confinement, which caused some little interruption in the publication of the paper.

The state of the public mind does not seem to have undergone any change for the better, Secessionists being as plenty as ever, but dare not speak their opinion openly. It is well known all over the city of New Orleans that there is a Confederate lodge in existence, but the exact location is as yet unknown to any one but the initiate.

The return of the fleet from Vicksburg, while causing universal regret among the loyal citizens, brought out quite a number of Confederate badges, but no other demonstration was made.

On the 31st ult., a rumor was circulated in New Orleans, that Hon. Howell Cobb, late Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, but now a Confederate General, had died of camp fever. A number of women at once appeared in mourning, but the next day this rumor was contradicted and the mourning disappeared.—A public house, which lowered its flag at half-mast was closed by order of the Provost Marshal.

It was also stated in New Orleans that the Right Rev. Gen. Polk was in command at Mobile, and was preparing for an attack on the Federal pickets. Slight skirmishes had taken place near Manchac and Kerner, but without loss to our troops, while the Confederates lost a number of their men.

The absence of a sufficient force to hold Vicksburg, after its capture, is assigned as the main cause for the return of the troops under Gen. Williams.

The circulation of shipplasters in the shape of railroad and stage tickets is decreasing rapidly, in consequence of the order of General Butler directing their redemption. Two stage lines now advertised to be sold, but General Butler ordered that unless every ticket was redeemed in United States money, the transfer would not be allowed.

A proclamation has been issued by the Governor announcing the preliminaries to the enrolment of the militia of Maryland, and the officers appointed to that duty in the city of Baltimore. The quota of Maryland as designated by the Secretary of War is eight thousand five hundred and thirty-two. Admitting that the enrolment will amount to 46,864, between the ages of 18 and 45, the draft will require one man of every five and a half, or two of every eleven enrolled.